

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 29, 31, and 37 are pending in the present amendment. Claims 28, 30, and 36 are canceled without prejudice and Claim 37 is amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,198,888, herein "Sugano") in view of Oshino et al. (Japanese Patent Application No. 63-107126, herein "Oshino"); Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugano, Oshino, and Walter (U.S. Patent No. 4,770,640); and Claims 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugano, Oshino, and Lamson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,233,220, herein "Lamson").

Regarding the rejection of Claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugano in view of Oshino, Claim 28 has been canceled and the rejection of Claim 29 is traversed for the following reasons.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 29 is directed to a semiconductor apparatus that includes a semiconductor device, at least a pair of dummy lead wires that are not electrically connected to the semiconductor device, one and the other of the at the least a pair of dummy lead wires are provided on one side and an opposite side of an insulating film, and tip portions of the at least a pair of dummy lead wires extend over the semiconductor device. In a non-limiting example, Figure 2A shows the pair of dummy lead wires 13' and the tip portions of the at least a pair of dummy lead wires 13' extending over the semiconductor device 11.

The outstanding Office Action recognizes at page 6, first full paragraph, that "Sugano et al. does not disclose the location of the one of the pair of dummy lead wires being placed on the opposite side surface of the plural side surfaces of said insulating film ... and a tip portion of the at least the single dummy wire extending over the semiconductor device." However, even if Sugano discloses one tip portion extending over the semiconductor device, Sugano does not teach or suggest tip portions (more than one tip portion) as required in Claim 9.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Oshino for showing in Figure 1 dummy lead wires 5A and 5B that are asserted to have the features of the claimed dummy wires. However, Oshino shows in Figure 1 that only **one tip portion** of a dummy lead wire 5A extends over a semiconductor device 3 and the corresponding dummy lead wire 5B, provided on an opposite side of an insulating film 1, does not have a tip portion extending over the semiconductor device 3.

In other words, Oshino shows a pair of dummy lead wires with only one dummy lead wire having a tip extending over the semiconductor device and the other dummy lead wire not having a tip portion extending over the semiconductor device, which is contrary to independent Claim 29 which recites that tip portions of the at least a pair of dummy lead wires extend over the semiconductor device.

Thus, neither Sugano nor Oshino teaches or suggests tip portions of at least a pair of dummy lead wires extending over a semiconductor device, as required by independent Claim 29.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 29 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the applied art.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugano, Oshino, and Walter, Claim 30 has been canceled and the rejection of Claim 31 is traversed for the following reasons.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Walter for teaching a semiconductor device having a thickness of approximately 50 μm . However, Walters does not overcome the deficiencies of Sugano and Oshino discussed above. In addition, Claim 31 depends from independent Claim 29, which is believed to be allowable as noted above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claim 31 is also allowable.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugano, Oshino, and Lamson, Claim 36 has been canceled and the rejection of Claim 37 is traversed for the following reasons.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Lamson for teaching tip portions of at least a pair of dummy wires connected to each other over a semiconductor device. Lamson shows in Figure 3 locking extensions 32a and 34a provided to enable locking of support bars 32 and 34.¹ The locking extensions 32a and 34a extend over a semiconductor device 40. However, the locking extensions of Lamson are not provided on a side and an opposite side of an insulating film, as requested by independent Claim 29, from which Claim 37 depends. In addition, the locking extensions 32a and 34a are provided on a lead frame 10 and not on an insulating film as required in Claim 29. Moreover, Lamson does not overcome the deficiencies of Sugano and Oshino discussed above.

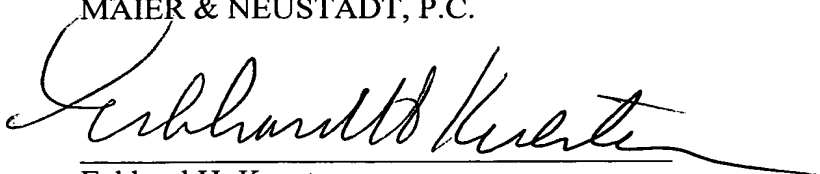
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 37 is also allowable.

¹ Lamson, column 4, lines 3-5.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eckhard H. Kuesters", written in black ink. The signature is fluid and extends to the right, ending in a long horizontal flourish.

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